

FOLLOWING HIS (BIRD) CALLING

RESIDENT HELPS HAWKS FIND THEIR WAY HOME



Paul Stapleton poses with a young Cooper's hawk, which came to the Raptor Center with a broken wing, before releasing it into the wild.

BLoomington Resident Paul Stapleton was always fascinated by the number and variety of birds he saw in his backyard near Harrison Park, 1701 West 100th Street. Yet it wasn't until he retired and began volunteering for the Raptor Center at the University of Minnesota that he was able to name the birds he had admired. Now Stapleton spends his free time assisting the Raptor Center in transporting and releasing injured birds that have been nursed back to health. One such bird Stapleton helped was a young Cooper's hawk with an injured wing. The hawk was discovered by a walker near Harrison Park. Once the veterinarians at the Raptor Center fixed the young hawk's wing, Stapleton released the bird back into its natural habitat near Nine Mile Creek.

“After a few test runs, the hawk usually gets the hang of flying again and realizes what it’s supposed to do,” Stapleton said. “He’ll fly to a nearby tree and hang out there for awhile before he builds up the confidence to fly again. Then he just takes off into the horizon. It’s an amazing thing to see.”

In addition to volunteering for the Raptor Center Stapleton tracks birds in his backyard for Project FeederWatch, a winter-long study that helps scientists track movements of winter bird populations and long-term trends in bird distribution.

MEET YOUR HOMETOWN HEROES

FIRE STATIONS OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

THE CITY'S SIX FIRE STATIONS and Public Safety Training Facility celebrate National Fire Prevention Week with open houses on **Saturday, October 10, 10 a.m. - 1 p.m.**

The fire station open houses provide residents an opportunity to meet their hometown heroes from Fire, Police and Public Works and enjoy a variety of activities, demonstrations and tours. Free t-shirts, temporary tattoos, stickers and coloring books will be available for kids.

The “tools of the trade” equipment demonstrations will offer kids the chance to step inside a fire truck or Public Works vehicle to see firsthand how they work and what it feels like to be in the driver’s seat.

In addition to the six fire station open houses, the South Metro Public Safety Training Facility will also be open to the public. The facility provides a place for fire, police and other public safety personnel to conduct training on their own. It is used to host local, regional and nationally recognized training courses. The center also hosts the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources firearm safety program, which is open to the public. The 28,000 square-foot, two-building campus is located in Edina and is a joint effort of the cities of Bloomington, Eden Prairie and Edina and the Minneapolis/St. Paul International Airport Police Department. *See left* for all open house locations.



Bloomington Fire Chief Ulie Seal said the open houses generate countless visitors each year.

“The open houses are important because they give the community an opportunity to be reminded of the importance of fire prevention and fire safety, as well as meet the members of the Department,” Chief Seal said.

The first Fire Department open house was held on October 4, 1947, shortly after the Town Council voted for the official start-up of the Bloomington Fire Department. The 26 charter members of the department originally met in the town garage until the first fire station was constructed. The total cost of the new building and equipment was \$24,000.

Today, there are 140 members of the volunteer, paid-on-call Bloomington Fire Department who respond to fire calls from six fire stations throughout the city. The average response time is 4.5 minutes. For more information, call the Fire Department at 952-563-4801.

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BOOK 'EM A SUCCESS

MONEY FOR CRIME PREVENTION

THE BLOOMINGTON Crime Prevention Association (BCPA) Book 'em used book sale raised a record \$98,000 to help fund crime prevention and awareness programs in the city. The 17th annual sale welcomed nearly 50 volunteers. For more information, call BCPA at 952-220-2537 or visit www.bcpamn.org.

A "TASTE" OF HOSPITALITY HOTEL EARNS AWARD



THE HILTON Minneapolis/ Bloomington hotel was awarded the 2009 Star Supporter Award from the Bloomington Sister City Organization at its annual fundraiser "Taste of Japan." According to Human Services Manager Lorinda Pearson, the hotel was instrumental in providing an outstanding welcome and first impression of Bloomington for Izumi City's mayoral delegation visit in 2008.

Correction: Page HS3 of the August *Briefing People2People* insert incorrectly identified the hotel.

HISTORY LESSONS


OLD TOWN HALL SPECIAL EVENTS

IF YOU LIKE HISTORY, you won't want to miss these upcoming Bloomington Historical Society events:

 **Hooked X**
October 11, 2 p.m.

 **Dakota Conflict**
October 18, 2 p.m.

 Harvest Festival
October 24, 12 - 4 p.m.

 **Treasures of Minnesota**
November 1, 2 p.m.

 **Speed Holman**
November 15, 2 p.m.

Programs are held at Old Town Hall, 10200 Penn Avenue South. For information, call the Bloomington Historical Society at 952-881-4327.

STATION NO.	ADDRESS
1	10 West 95th Street
2	10601 Xerxes Avenue South
3	2050 East 86th Street
4	4201 West 84th Street
5	10540 Bush Lake Road
6	8601 Lakeview Road

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QUALITY SERVICES, QUALITY PEOPLE

MAKING OUR COMMUNITY A BETTER PLACE TO LIVE

By Mayor Gene Winstead

WHEN TIMES GET TOUGH, many citizens rely more heavily on City services and programs. During these difficult economic times, the City continues to focus on providing quality services to the community, including Police, Fire, Public Works, Human Services and Parks and Recreation services for a cost of \$65.17 per month for the owner of a median-priced, single-family home.

Bloomington is able to maintain its key services due to strong financial planning, but the City also relies on the skills and dedication of the people it employs to deliver both essential and quality of life services. These people, who share a common goal of service excellence, are the backbone of the City. Their commitment to quality service can be found everywhere, every day throughout our community.

Just last May, I had the privilege of recognizing the accomplishments of **Parkkeeper Steve Ferguson**, below, who was presented with the Charles V.



Honchell Public Works Employee of the Year Award. Ferguson has been with the City for more than 23 years, during which time he has worn many different hats, including snow plow operator and hockey and skating rinks worker. Most notably, Ferguson is responsible for maintaining the mechanicals at Bloomington Aquatic Center. Ferguson makes sure the pool is safe, clean and always in operation during the season. For many residents who stayed close to home this summer, the pool was an oasis that provided hours of exercise and fun.

Also in May, **Police Officer Ben Calhoun**, right, was awarded the 2009 Optimist Club’s Officer of the Year award. This is the 18th year that the Optimist Club has honored a member of the Bloomington Police Department (BPD) during Respect for Law Week. Officer Calhoun, who has served as a Field Training Officer and SWAT team member, has been with the BPD since 2001. He is known for his exceptional work ethic and positive attitude.

Environmental Health recently received the Food and Drug Administration’s Group Recognition Award at its 14th annual awards ceremony. Environmental Health employees were honored for their hard work on the 2008 Republican National Convention Food Protection Team. You can spot health inspectors around the city every day as they conduct regular



inspections of food facilities, rental housing, swimming pools and more in order to keep our community safe.

These are just a few of many examples of City employees delivering quality services to the community. The services offered are as unique and diverse as the people who deliver them. And although every service may not be used by every citizen, we all benefit from the healthy, vibrant community that these services help to create.

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The *Briefing*, published bimonthly by the City of Bloomington, is mailed to our residents and businesses. Direct comments and requests for Braille, larger print or computer disk to Communications Administrator Janine Hill, 1800 West Old Shakopee Road, Bloomington MN 55431-3027; PH 952-563-8819; TTY 952-563-8740; FAX 952-563-8715; E-MAIL jhill@ci.bloomington.mn.us. Web site: www.ci.bloomington.mn.us

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General phone number 952-563-8700
The City of Bloomington complies with all applicable provisions of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, and does not discriminate on the basis of disability in the admission or access to, or treatment or employment in, its services, programs, or activities. Upon request, accommodation will be provided to allow individuals with disabilities to participate in all City of Bloomington services, programs, and activities. The City has designated coordinators to facilitate compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA), and to coordinate compliance with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 as mandated by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development regulations. For more information, contact the Human Services Division, City of Bloomington, 1800 West Old Shakopee Road, Bloomington, MN 55431-3027; 952-563-8733 (Voice); 952-563-8740 (TTY).

Upon request, this information can be available in Braille, large print, audio tape and/or electronic format.

CITY OF BLOOMINGTON BRIEFING, OCTOBER 2009

ROAD CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS NEAR COMPLETION

THE CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS on 90th Street and Nicollet Avenue, West 84th Street and the 106th Street Bridge are nearly complete and streets are now open to all traffic. Pavement reconstruction, as part of the City’s Pavement Management Plan, is currently underway at West 84th Street and the intersection of 90th Street and Nicollet Avenue. Landscape restoration to these areas, if not completed by the end of the fall, will be finished in spring 2010.

The City appreciates residents’ patience and willingness to use alternative routes as these important safety improvements are made.

For more information on these and other projects, visit www.cityroads.info or call Engineering at 952-563-4870.

To receive e-mail updates about road construction, go to our website, click on E-Subscribe and subscribe to “Road projects.”

WEBSITE KEYWORDS: ROAD CONSTRUCTION.

GETTING AROUND TOWN

TO PARK OR NOT TO PARK REDUCING REDUNDANCY IN PARKING RESTRICTIONS

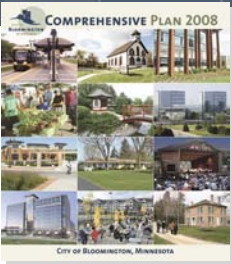
DO YOU KNOW that over the past 50 years, nearly 30 different parking restrictions have been approved to address parking issues in Bloomington neighborhoods?

In an effort to streamline sign maintenance, reduce future costs and better meet the needs of neighborhoods, the City is working with the Traffic and Transportation Advisory Commission (TTAC) to develop a plan that would apply parking ordinance modifications consistently and update parking ordinances that are no longer viable or are in need of modification.

Parking restrictions recently addressed by the City and TTAC were school area restrictions, prohibiting students from parking on residential streets. The study involved the neighborhoods surrounding Jefferson and Kennedy high schools where parking restrictions were already in place. Based on resident surveys, neighborhood open houses and public hearings, the City Council has approved a new standard restriction: “No Parking, 8 a.m. - 2 p.m., Monday - Friday, September - June.” This new standard will reduce confusion, as well as the amount of signage being used in school areas.

Residents living in areas with posted parking restrictions can continue to contact Traffic Engineering at 952-563-4913 to request temporary on-street parking approval for special events or short-term guest parking.





PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE

UPDATED COMPREHENSIVE PLAN NOW AVAILABLE

BLOOMINGTON’s Comprehensive Plan 2008 was recently updated and is available for download on the City’s website.

The plan expresses where the city is today and where it desires to be in the future, with recommendations on actions needed to reach future goals. The plan is a guide to decision-making and a foundation for more detailed planning efforts.

The Comprehensive Plan is not a fixed document, but rather part of an ongoing planning and implementation process. The City maintains an up-to-date version of the Comprehensive Plan on its website, www.ci.bloomington.mn.us.

A hard copy of the latest version is also available for purchase at the Planning Division, Bloomington Civic Plaza, 1800 West Old Shakopee Road. For more information, call Planning at 952-563-8920.

WEBSITE KEYWORDS: COMPREHENSIVE PLAN.

THINKING AHEAD



Leaving cars unattended with the keys in the ignition is an open invitation to criminals. Although it may be tempting, especially on cold and snowy days, remember never to leave your vehicle running unattended, even if it’s just warming up in your driveway.

Here are some more auto prevention tips from Chief Potts:

- Keep valuables out of sight.
- Never leave extra keys hidden in your car.
- Don’t mark your keychain with your name or license number as lost keys could lead a thief right to your car.
- Close windows and lock all doors.
- Use anti-theft precautions and alarm systems.

For more information, call Bloomington Police at 952-563-4900.

WEBSITE KEYWORDS: AUTO THEFT.

CRIME ON WHEELS PROTECT YOURSELF AND YOUR CAR

AVEHICLE IS STOLEN every 19 seconds every day of the year in the United States. Bicycle, snowmobile, camper and other vehicle thefts are also on the rise. Yet many of these thefts are completely preventable. According to Bloomington Police Chief Jeffrey Potts, a large number of stolen vehicles are left unlocked or with keys in the ignition. In 2009, as of September 1, 50 out of 99 reported stolen vehicles in Bloomington had keys left inside them.



TIME-OF-SALE INSPECTIONS PROTECTING HOME BUYERS AND SELLERS

TO ASSIST BUYERS and help ensure a smooth sale, all single- and two-family dwellings, condominiums, townhouses and mobile homes are required to have an inspection prior to being listed for sale. The inspection report must be available for review during the time the home is offered for sale. The Time-of-Sale Program provides potential purchasers with information about the condition and code compliance of a dwelling and requires correction of immediate hazards. The evaluator will examine the dwelling’s visible structural elements and other construction components, such as heating, electrical and plumbing systems. Accessible unoccupied areas, such as attics and crawl spaces, will also be viewed. No building components are taken apart during inspection. People preparing to sell their houses may have the inspection performed by a City inspector for \$185 or choose from a list of licensed independent evaluators.

For more information, call 952-563-8930.

WEBSITE KEYWORDS: TIME OF SALE.

FOR THE LOVE OF THE OUTDOORS

LICENSE PLATES ARE CRITICAL NEW CRITICAL HABITAT PLATES OFFERED AT MOTOR VEHICLE

IF YOU LOVE NATURE and want to help protect critical habitats in Minnesota, you can show your support by purchasing one of four new license plates offered at Bloomington Motor Vehicle, 9930 Logan Avenue South. A minimum \$30 yearly contribution to the Reinvest in Minnesota program is required. Money from the fund is used for the acquisition and development of critical fish and wildlife habitats.

Don’t forget Motor Vehicle for all your vehicle licensing needs including: license tab renewal, title transfers, boat, snowmobile and ATV registrations and more. A portion of the fees paid at the Bloomington Motor Vehicles office remains in the community.

Office hours are Monday, 8 a.m. - 7 p.m. and Tuesday-Friday, 8 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.

For more information, call Motor Vehicle at 952-563-8719.



CENSUS COUNTDOWN HELP CREATE A SNAPSHOT OF YOUR COMMUNITY

THERE ARE TWO WAYS to participate in the 2010 Census. The first is to be counted. The U.S. census begins **April 1, 2010**. It is required by law that all U.S. citizens participate. You can also contribute by joining a Complete Count Committee, a group of local community leaders who will help conduct the outreach and awareness campaign for the 2010 Census.

Why should you get involved with the census and be counted? The census shows how many people are living in cities and neighborhoods and dictates future needs for seniors, youth and workers. Based on these census counts, nearly \$300 billion in federal and state funds are distributed each year. Census data is also used by community service organizations to plan services and obtain funding.

The City of Bloomington Planning Division will be assisting the Census Bureau to ensure that Bloomington address lists are complete and accurate. For more information, visit www.census.gov.



ROOM TO ROAM DISCOVER THE REGIONAL PARKS FOUNDATION

WHETHER YOU’RE A HIKER, biker, swimmer, golfer, skier, nature lover or playground patron, the regional parks and trails system has something for everyone.

Currently, the regional parks system comprises of 53,000 acres within 49 regional parks, 30 regional trails and six special recreation areas throughout the seven-county metro area. These parks contain lakeshores, wetlands, hardwood forests, native prairies and groundwater recharging areas. The Regional Parks Foundation has plans to expand the current regional park system to nearly 70,000

acres, including seven new regional parks. The expansion would quadruple the trail system – from 170 miles of trails open to the public today to 877 miles by 2030.

The new Regional Parks Foundation of the Twin Cities was founded in 2008 to raise funds to acquire parcels of land for regional open spaces, trails or park reserves and to support stewardship efforts and community awareness.

For more information, call Bloomington Parks and Recreation Manager Randy Quale at 952-563-8876 or visit www.rpftc.org.



THERE IS SUCH A THING AS A “FREE RIDE” VETERANS RIDE FOR FREE ON LRT AND CITY BUSES

AS OF JULY 1, some 50,000 of Minnesota’s disabled veterans qualify for free rides on fixed-route services in the state. Of the 50,000 qualifying veterans statewide, it is estimated that nearly 900 reside in Bloomington.

The program makes it possible for disabled veterans to ride free on the Hiawatha light rail line, which just celebrated its five-year anniversary, and the Northstar commuter rail line, which will run between Big Lake and downtown Minneapolis beginning late 2009.

To qualify for free rides, disabled veterans must show a veteran’s identification card issued by a Veterans Association Medical Center with the words “Service Connected” or “S.C.” below the photo.

For more information, visit va.gov/healtheligibility/application/IDCard.asp.



BUCKTHORN BUST VOLUNTEERS NEEDED TO HELP WEED OUT INVASIVE PLANT

BUCKTHORN, AN INVASIVE plant species that grows very quickly, is making a major impact on many of Bloomington’s wooded areas, choking out native trees, shrubs and other plants. Join the City and Pond Dakota Heritage Society in clearing buckthorn from Pond Dakota Mission Park, 401 East 104th Street, overlooking the Minnesota River Valley, on **Saturday, October 10, 9 a.m. - 12 p.m.**

Volunteers should come to the park on the day of the event for registration and instructions. Be sure to wear sturdy shoes, jeans, long-sleeved shirts and eye protection. Some cutting and removal tools will be provided, but volunteers should bring a bow saw, handsaw or hand shears if they have them. Water and snacks will also be provided. For more information, call Parks and Recreation at 952-563-8877.

WEBSITE KEYWORD: BUCKTHORN.

TOWARD A MORE SUSTAINABLE FUTURE

Earth Action Heroes protect the earth. Whether it’s saving energy or guarding Bloomington’s precious natural resources, these individuals are making a difference. Here are your neighbors in action...

EARTH ACTION HEROES CHIPOTLE’S EARTH CHAMPION

WESTON PETERSON MAY have grown up in a farming community in Minnesota, but he never gave much thought to the chemicals used in food production. When he began managing the Chipotle restaurant on the corner of France Avenue and Old Shakopee Road his whole philosophy about food and the environment changed.

One of the first things Peterson did was to order recycling bins. He even brought the recyclables home with him every night until the bins arrived and the landlord coordinated pick-up of the items. Yet he didn’t stop there.

“When I started working here I knew I wanted to recycle, I also knew about the ‘food with integrity’ thing, but I wasn’t going to buy into it without researching it myself first,” Peterson said.

Peterson said what he learned intrigued him. Chipotle not only encourages recycling, it follows strict

guidelines when it comes to where its food originates and how it’s prepared.

According to Peterson, Chipotle only serves food that is unprocessed, family farmed, naturally raised, hormone- and antibiotic-free and in some cases, organic. There are no microwaves or freezers in Chipotle’s kitchens. Peterson orders ingredients fresh from local farms and co-ops and prepares the food by hand as soon as it arrives.

“Dealing with fresher, higher quality products is easier,” Peterson said. “You don’t need to worry about putting a bag in the freezer, then in a machine and then getting rid of all the packaging.”

Peterson started speaking at Bloomington schools on the importance of eating fresh, locally produced foods. He also started a food donation program, providing chips and guacamole to local charities and schools. He said he hopes

that Chipotle’s practices will encourage other restaurants to recycle and buy more locally grown, unprocessed foods.

The Mall of America Chipotle also practices sustainability with its use of LED lights and “green” cleaning products.



DID YOU KNOW?

The City Code requires all Bloomington businesses to recycle. For more information, call Public Works at 952-563-8750.

Peterson said it’s only a matter of time before these practices trickle down to his restaurant. When they do, he said he will be more than happy to implement them.

CARING FOR OUR ENVIRONMENT

CURLY-LEAF PONDWEED INVASIVE WEED TREATMENT BEING EXPLORED



Although not a threat to fish, birds or other wildlife, the floating plants out-compete with native plants for sun and increase nutrients in the lake when they die, often contributing to algae blooms in late summer.

Management of Normandale Lake is under the authority of the Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE) and Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR), which permit use of herbicides only in limited sections of the lake.

“As owner of Normandale Lake, the City must convince the ACOE and DNR that its remediation programs address the overall lake ecology, not just pondweed removal via an herbicide that kills other plants,” Lee said.

In 2008, the City and Nine Mile Creek Watershed District received DNR approval to control curly-leaf pondweed in Anderson Lakes. The mitigation plan includes draining Anderson Lake and spot-treating it with herbicide. The City also petitioned to undertake a curly-leaf pondweed control project on Normandale Lake. Plans have been submitted to the ACOE for initial guidance before an in-depth feasibility study is pursued. Treatment of Normandale Lake may include a whole-lake herbicide treatment as early as spring 2010, whole-lake drainage or combination of partial drainage with herbicide treatment. Follow-up treatments would likely occur over the next four years.

For more information, contact City of Bloomington Senior Civil Engineer Scott Anderson at 952-563-4867 or Nine Mile Creek Watershed District Administrator Kevin Bigalke at 952-835-2078.

IF YOU ENJOY the trails around Normandale Lake, you’ve probably noticed more green than blue on the lake’s surface. This is because curly-leaf pondweed has made the lake its new home.

FALL REMINDER KEEP LEAVES OFF THE STREETS



SOON THE ONLY HINT we will have that the vibrant fall foliage ever existed will be the crumpled remains of leaves that litter our yards. Leaves also clog storm sewers and can pollute our lakes, ponds and rivers. When the time comes to rake those leaves, be sure to have some paper bags handy, as plastic is not accepted; or better yet, compost leaves. Raking or blowing leaves into streets or storm drains is a violation of the City Code. For more information, call Public Works at 952-563-8751.

CARING FOR OUR COMMUNITY



MAKE A DIFFERENCE BLOOMINGTON STUDENTS IN NEED OF MENTORS

ARE YOU WILLING to make a difference in a young person's life? You can give the invaluable gift of friendship by mentoring a Bloomington elementary student through the Big Brothers Big Sisters Mentoring Program. Mentoring a child at school or in the community is easy and the rewards are countless for both you and your "little." Contact Human Services to learn more about how to get matched with an area youth.

The recruitment of mentors is a joint effort of Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Greater Twin Cities and Bloomington Human Services.

Big Brothers Big Sisters helps children reach their potential through professionally supported, one-to-one relationships with mentors.

For more information, visit www.bigstwicities.org.

RESOURCES ABOUND HUMAN SERVICES FOR YOU AND YOUR LOVED ONES

BLOOMINGTON HUMAN SERVICES PROVIDES exceptional programs and services to community members of all ages. Programs and services are accessible to youth, families, multicultural communities, active, aging adults and people with disabilities. For more information, call Human Services at 952-563-4944 V/TTY.

To sign up for e-mail updates, go to our website, click on E-Subscribe and subscribe to "Human Services."

WEBSITE KEYWORDS: HUMAN SERVICES.



VETERANS WALL HONORS PHOTO COLLECTION ON DISPLAY

THE CITY WILL PAY TRIBUTE to local military veterans with a collection of photographs honoring the men and women who served our country. The photo wall will be on display at Creekside

Community Center, 9801 Penn Avenue South, throughout the month of November. The Veterans Wall continues to grow each year.

Don't miss the special luncheon at Creekside to honor Bloomington's veterans on **Monday, November 9, 11:30 a.m.** To make a lunch reservation call 952-563-4948.

If you would like to submit a photo of yourself or a loved one in uniform, visit Creekside or call Human Services.

PROVIDING REAL OPPORTUNITIES DISABILITY EMPLOYMENT AND AWARENESS MONTH

OCTOBER IS **DISABILITY EMPLOYMENT AND AWARENESS MONTH (DEAM)**. It is a month in which many cities all over the country present programs designed to bring a new level of awareness to employers, business leaders and job seekers regarding hiring people with disabilities. The Bloomington Human Rights Commission, in partnership with the Disability Awareness Planning Committee, will be providing opportunities throughout October to learn about job searching skills, resume writing, interviewing, self-advocacy skills and more. For more information, contact Human Services.

WEBSITE KEYWORD: DEAM.

GOING FOR THE GOLD IZUMI CITY RUNNER TO RACE IN TWIN CITIES MARATHON

COME AND CHEER ON Izumi City, Japan runner Kazutomi Sakaguchi on **Sunday, October 4**, when he competes in the 2009 Medtronic Twin Cities Marathon as part of the Bloomington Sister City Organization (BSCO) marathon exchange program.

The marathon exchange program not only brings together athletes, but builds relationships between marathon runners and host families.

Peggy Herrmann, an employee of Bloomington-based Donaldson

Company, and her family will be hosting Sakaguchi during his stay in Bloomington.

Herrmann said she and her family are very excited about the program.

"We enjoy the Japanese culture immensely and look forward to learning more about it through this experience," Hermann said.

For more information, call BSCO at 952-563-8713 or e-mail sistercity@ci.bloomington.mn.us.



Friends, family and 2008 Medtronic Twin Cities Marathon participants celebrating their accomplishments at the finish line in front of the State Capitol.



ACTING FOR LIFE FUN, NEW THEATER WORKSHOP AND CONFERENCE

ACTING FOR LIFE: A Senior Theatre Workshop and Conference hopes to inspire the development of senior theater in Minnesota. Try out your acting skills and enjoy workshops in improvisation, storytelling, old-time radio theater and more. The Acting for Life workshop will be held **Friday, October 9, 1 - 4 p.m.**, at the Guthrie Theater, 818 South 2nd Street, Minneapolis. The conference will take place **Saturday, October 10, 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.**, at Bloomington Civic Theatre, 1800 West Old Shakopee Road.

The Acting for Life workshop is presented by the Minnesota Creative Arts and Aging Network in partnership with Bloomington Human Services, Bloomington Civic Theatre, the Vital Aging Network and SHiFT.

For more information, contact Human Services.

LOAVES AND FISHES TIMELY INFORMATION, RESOURCES AND A GOOD MEAL



LOAVES AND FISHES WELCOMES those in need of a free, nutritious meal to dine at its Creekside Community Center location. A fresh meal is served by volunteers **every Monday - Friday from 5:30 - 6:30 p.m.** Staff from various local agencies, in partnership with Human Services, will be available monthly to provide timely information and opportunities to all Bloomington residents in need.

Mark your calendars for upcoming topics:

- **October 5** – Home maintenance assistance, emergency assistance and healthy living tips.
- **November 9** – Planning for holiday food and meals.

For more information, contact Human Services.

YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Did you know just \$50 pays for 17 meals? To donate to or volunteer for Loaves and Fishes, visit www.loavesandfishesmn.org or call 612-377-9810.



DID YOU KNOW?

Translated City information is available in Chinese, Hmong, Russian and Somali online at www.ci.bloomington.mn.us.

TRANSLATION NEEDED - NO PROBLEM LANGUAGE ASSISTANCE TO SERVE YOU BETTER

THE CITY PROVIDES **ESSENTIAL INFORMATION** in the primary languages of Bloomington residents. Human Services works with residents and other City departments to translate information important to providing quality services. In addition, individuals can contact Human Services and request an interpreter to help them better understand City services and information. Wait times vary for interpreters depending on language requested.

LA CIUDAD DE BLOOMINGTON SE ESFUERZA EN PROVEER INFORMACIÓN esencial en los idiomas principales a los residentes de Bloomington. El Departamento de Servicios Humanos trabajará con los residentes y con otros departamentos para traducir la información necesaria para proveer servicios de buena calidad. Además, las personas pueden ponerse en contacto con la oficina de Servicios Humanos y solicitar un intérprete para que les ayude a entender mejor los servicios que la ciudad ofrece y pedir información. El tiempo de espera por intérpretes varía dependiendo del idioma solicitado.

PUBLIC HEALTH NEWS



PROTECT YOURSELF AGAINST THE FLU TAKING SIMPLE PRECAUTIONS GOES A LONG WAY

ACCORDING TO Bloomington Public Health, most people who catch the flu feel sick, but generally get better in about a week. Young children, people older than 65 years of age, pregnant women and those with chronic medical conditions can have serious complications from the flu. These complications may include pneumonia and worsening of medical conditions like heart disease, diabetes or asthma.

The Center for Disease Control is still learning about the severity of the novel H1N1 flu virus. So far, the largest numbers of confirmed and probable cases of H1N1 have occurred in people between the ages of 5 and 24 years old. Pregnancy and other previously recognized high risk medical conditions from seasonal influenza appear to be associated with increased risk of complications from the H1N1 flu virus.

What can you do to protect yourself?

- Get a flu vaccination every year. (The seasonal flu vaccine will not protect against the H1N1 virus.)
- Cover your nose and mouth with your sleeve when you cough or sneeze.
- Wash your hands frequently and thoroughly with soap and water.
- Clean your hands before eating or preparing food.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth.
- Stay home if you are sick.
- People with an underlying medical condition, pregnant women, young children (especially under age two), and people 65 or older should contact their health care providers if they have flu symptoms or have been exposed to people with the flu.

For more information, call Public Health's Karen Stanley at 952-563-8990 or Lisa Brodsky at 952-563-4962.



FLU SHOT CLINIC

If you missed the flu shot clinic held in Bloomington last month, there are more opportunities to get vaccinated. Community flu shot clinics will be held **Wednesday, October 21, 1 - 2:30 p.m.**, at Richfield Community Center, 7000 Nicollet Avenue in Richfield and **Thursday, October 29, 9 - 11 a.m.**, at the Edina Senior Center, 5280 Grandview Square in Edina.

Cost for the flu shot is \$25.

WEBSITE KEYWORDS: FLU SHOT.

FAMILY DIALOGUE RULES DINNERTIME ISN'T JUST FOR EATING

IF YOU THOUGHT EATING was the most important reason to have family dinners, this could change your mind:

More than a decade of research has found that the more kids eat dinner with their families, the less likely they are to smoke, drink or use drugs.

Family meals are the perfect time to talk to your kids and listen to what's on their minds. However, Bloomington Public Health knows that those conversations can be difficult to begin. To help get the conversation started, Public

Health created "Let's Talk" Tins that contain questions both serious and silly, yet suitable for all ages.

Conversation tips:

- Listen when your teen is ready to talk.
- Show respect for your child's feelings and experiences.
- Don't interrupt.
- Ask open-ended, not "yes" or "no," questions.



"Let's Talk" Tins can be purchased for \$5 at Bloomington Public Health, 1900 West Old Shakopee Road. For more information, visit www.tricitypartners.org or call Public Health at 952-563-8984.



For more information, visit www.tricitypartners.org.

PARENTS HAVE THE POWER CREATING A BETTER FUTURE FOR YOUR TEEN

EVERY PARENT WANTS their child to reach their full potential. Early alcohol or drug use could prevent them from doing just that, but there is hope. Research has found that parents wield the greatest influence over their child's temptation to use drugs and alcohol.

According to Minnesota Student Survey data, alcohol and marijuana are the top two substances used by youth in Bloomington. If used before age 15, these youth are four times more likely to have substance abuse issues later in life. Lasting harm to thinking ability may result because the human brain is not fully developed until age 25. Remember, healthy parental involvement is imperative.

KEEPING YOUR FAMILY SAFE

TAKING IT TO THE STREETS BLOCK PARTIES STRENGTHEN NEIGHBORHOODS

THE 26TH ANNUAL National Night Out (NNO) proved to be another successful event. Nearly 360 block parties registered. Many parties were visited by Bloomington Police and Fire Departments, and Allina Hospitals and Clinics.

Pat Hanf of 10th Avenue Circle has been block captain on her street since she moved in 10 years ago. She started the neighborhood watch group because she wanted to get to know her neighbors.

"When you know your neighbors, it creates a sense of security and awareness," Hanf said. We all watch out for each other."

NNO is the biggest one-day fundraising event of the year for Volunteers Enlisted to Assist People (VEAP). This year, VEAP collected nearly 20,000 pounds of food donations and \$742 from 242 block parties. VEAP Development Director Karin Meier credits Crime Prevention Specialist Niki Pierson, who organizes the NNO events, with VEAP's NNO success.

The Bloomington Crime Prevention Association also raised \$7,000 for the Bloomington Police Department to help offset expenses from the event.



Mayor Winstead and Police Chief Jeffrey Potts pose with Block Captains Pat Hanf and Mary Chapman.

National Night Out is designed to heighten awareness of crime and drug prevention, generate support for local anti-crime programs and strengthen neighborhood spirit. For more information, call Niki Pierson at 952-563-8808.

A REAL BLOOMINGTON HERO FIGHTING FIRES IS A PRIORITY FOR VOLUNTEER

AT THE END OF THE DAY, Bloomington volunteer firefighter Ryan Petersen has one goal in mind – get everyone home safely to their families. This includes not only the people he helps on calls, but also the firefighters he works with and considers extended family.

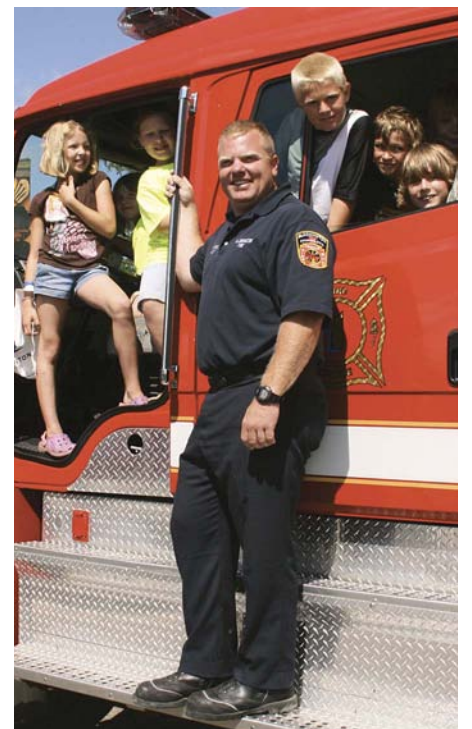
A volunteer firefighter for eight years and a Bloomington native, Petersen said protecting the people in his community is the most rewarding part of his job. He also feels a great sense of responsibility to his country. A member of the Marine Corps, Petersen did two 10-month-long stints in Iraq in 2003 and 2004. While he was in Iraq, his "extended family" planned a surprise for him.

"The most memorable moment of my life was when some firefighters remodeled my house for me without my knowing," Petersen said.

Petersen, who also works full-time as a Fire Range Technician for the Minnesota Fish and Wildlife Service, said he's had his share of close calls.

"The scariest part of this job is when we're on the highway responding to a motor vehicle accident or fire," Petersen said. "The traffic is just flying by and we have to make sure we keep a safe distance from it while we're working."

Petersen said that when he isn't on the job he enjoys hunting, fishing and doing projects around his house.



DON'T MISS THESE TASTY EVENTS!



FARMERS MARKET MOVES INDOORS COME ON IN NOVEMBER 14 AND DECEMBER 5

SUMMER MAY BE OVER, but you can still visit the Farmers Market outdoors on **Saturday, October 3 and 10, 8 a.m. - 1 p.m.** and on **Saturday, November 14 and December 5, 9 a.m. - 12 p.m.**, when the Farmers Market moves indoors to the Civic Plaza lobby. Don't miss these two great opportunities to purchase locally produced honey, jam and baked goods, as well as jewelry, pottery and other handcrafted items.

Stop by the Minnesota Porcelain Art Teachers Show while visiting the market on November 14 and the Holiday Art Sale in the Greenberg Gallery December 2 - 6.

For more information, contact Farmers Market Coordinator Keri Lahl at 952-563-8877.

Go to our website, click on E-Subscribe and sign up for Farmers Market e-mail updates.

A HALLOWEEN TREAT

HAVE A HOWLING GOOD TIME AT ANNUAL BASH

BLOOMINGTON'S ANNUAL citywide Halloween Party takes place **Saturday, October 31, 6 - 8 p.m.**, at Northwestern Health Sciences University, West 84th Street and Penn Avenue South. Preschoolers through fourth graders, accompanied by an

adult, are invited. Activities include "Trick or Treat Alley," games, prizes and much more. Admission is free. Donations of nonperishable food items to the VEAP Food Shelf are greatly appreciated. The event is sponsored by the Bloomington Breakfast Optimist

Club, Northwestern Health Sciences University and the City of Bloomington.

WEBSITE KEYWORD: HALLOWEEN.



CENTER FOR THE ARTS

LOCATED IN Bloomington Civic Plaza at the corner of West 98th Street and Old Shakopee Road, the Center for the Arts is a first-class facility housing seven arts organizations. For facility information, call 952-563-8889. For exhibit information and events, visit www.bloomingtonartcenter.com and click on Exhibitions, or call 952-563-8567.

GALLERY HOURS

Hours: **M - F 8 a.m. - 10 p.m.**
Sa 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Su 1 - 10 p.m.

For all theater tickets, call the Box Office at 952-563-8575.

INEZ GREENBERG GALLERY

Mr. Personality,
by Richard Poey.



Fall Into Sculpture, featuring works by the Society of Minnesota Sculptors, runs **through October 16**.

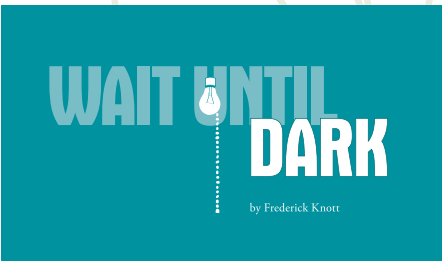
Bloomington Art Center's Annual Members' Juried Exhibition, featuring work by members, runs **October 29 - November 29**.

ATRIUM GALLERY

Ripples and Reflections: Views of the River, featuring works by the Minnesota Watercolor Society, runs **through November 13**.

Instructor/Student Art Show runs **November 20 - January 3**. Artists' reception is November 20, 6 - 8 p.m.

BLACK BOX THEATER



The Gallery Theatre Company presents the mystery thriller *Wait Until Dark*, **Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays, 7:30 p.m.**, and **Sundays, 2 p.m.**, through **October 25**. Tickets are \$18 adults; \$16 seniors; \$14 students.



The Gallery Theatre Company presents the satire *A Tuna Christmas*, **November 20 - December 20, Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays, 7:30 p.m.**, and **Sundays, 2 p.m.** Tickets are \$18 adults; \$16 seniors; \$14 students.

SCHNEIDER THEATER

THE SCARLET PIMPERNEL

Bloomington Civic Theatre presents *The Scarlet Pimpernel*, directed by John Command, **October 23 - November 21**. Tickets are \$25 adults; \$22 seniors; \$19 students.



BUTCH MILES WITH THE WOLVERINES AND JUDI DONAGHY BASIE'S LIVING LEGACY

Since joining the Count Basie Orchestra in 1975, Butch Miles has appeared in every major jazz festival in the world. Don't miss Miles as he joins the Wolverine Band and vocalist Judi Donaghy for Small Group Jazz on **Saturday, October 10, 7:30 p.m.**, and Big Band Jazz, **Sunday, October 11, 2 p.m.** Tickets are \$25 for adults, seniors and students.

MEDALIST CONCERT BAND OLD HOME DAYS

Settle in and make yourself at home during an afternoon of all-American band music featuring pieces by Charles Ives, Aaron Copland and John Philip Sousa, **Sunday, November 22, 4 p.m.** Tickets are \$10 adults; \$8 seniors and students.

ADULT SPORTS

BORN AGAIN VOLLEYBALL

THE BORN AGAIN JOCKS Volleyball League welcomes men, 55 years and older, with any level of playing ability. Call Dick Wortman at 952-888-1814.

When: **Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, October 5 - April 30.**

Time: Warm-up 8:45 a.m.
Games 9 a.m.

Where: Jefferson H. S. Activity Center, 4001 West 102nd Street.

WE'RE FLIPPING OUT TUMBLE TIME WITH L'IL FLIPSTERS

L'IL FLIPSTERS GYMNASTICS is back. For children ages two-and-a-half to kindergarten, this mobile gymnastics organization provides gymnastics training and motor skill development in a safe and fun environment. New sessions begin every month. Classes are held at Bloomington Ice Garden, 3600 West 98th Street, **Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday mornings**, and **Friday afternoons**. Classes are \$24 per three-week session and \$32 for a four-week session.

UNLEASH YOUR CREATIVITY NEW CLASSES OFFERED



Pottery is just one of the many classes offered at BCA.

CLASSES IN CREATIVE WRITING, theater and the "business" of art and its creative process will be offered at the Bloomington Center for the Arts (BCA), 1800 West Old Shakopee Road. The classes are in addition to other courses, such as pottery and painting, offered regularly by the Bloomington Art Center. Classes are held during the day and on evenings and weekends for all ages. Many new teachers have joined the teaching staff!

Classes are available in three, four and six-week increments, as well as one-day workshops. For more information or to register for classes, call 952-563-8587, or visit www.bloomingtonartcenter.com.



VOTING INFORMATION: 952-563-8729 – www.ci.bloomington.mn.us, KEYWORD: VOTING

GENERAL ELECTION
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 3

ON THE BALLOT

- * Councilmember at Large
 - * Councilmember, District I*
 - * Councilmember, District II*
 - * Bloomington School District #271 School Board Members (4)
- *On ballots of voters who reside in this district.*

SAMPLE BALLOT

Sample ballots are available to view online.

WEBSITE KEYWORD: VOTING.

VOTING ASSISTANCE

TELL THE ELECTION JUDGE if you need assistance at your polling place. All sites are accessible and have AutoMARK voter-assist terminals to help voters who have difficulty in marking the optical scan paper ballot.

VOTER REGISTRATION

QUALIFIED CITIZENS must be registered to vote. Preregistration closes **Tuesday, October 13, 5 p.m.** Voter registration applications are available from most government offices and on the City’s website. If you are unable to preregister, you can still register at your polling place on Election Day with one of the proofs of residence authorized by Minnesota law. The Minnesota driver’s license and Minnesota I.D. card are two of the most commonly used documents for Election Day registration. A complete list of Election Day voter registration proof of residence documents is available on the City’s website.

You can update or renew your driver’s license or Minnesota I.D. card at the Bloomington Motor Vehicle Office at 9930 Logan Avenue South.

CAN I VOTE BY ABSENTEE BALLOT?

MINNESOTA LAW ALLOWS absentee voting for individuals with special circumstances. Voters are only eligible to receive an absentee ballot for one of the following reasons:

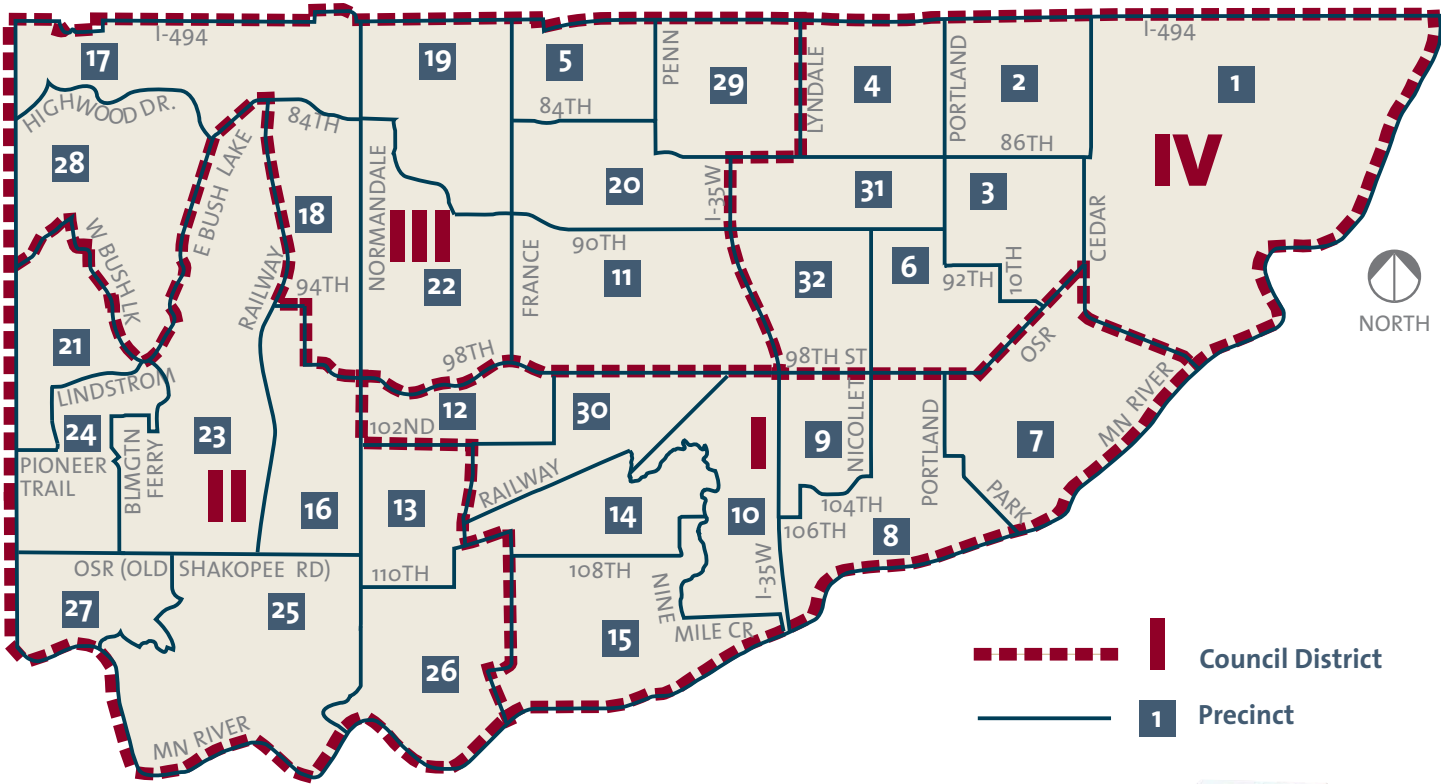
- Disabled or ill.
- An election judge serving in another precinct.
- Absent from the precinct.
- Unable to go to the polling place due to a religious holiday or belief.

Absentee ballot applications are available at City Hall.

WEBSITE KEYWORD: VOTING.

2009 BLOOMINGTON POLLING PLACES

POLLS ARE OPEN FROM 7 A.M. TO 8 P.M. ON ELECTION DAY.



Precinct/Polling location	Entrance/Parking
1 Evergreen Community Church 2300 East 88th Street	Main entrance (SW) South lot
2 Portland Avenue Methodist Church 8000 Portland Avenue South	Main entrance West lot
3 Cedar Valley Church 8600 Bloomington Avenue	South entrance - Door E, South lot
4 Unity South Church 7950 1st Avenue South	Main entrance South lot
5 Southtown Baptist Church 2600 West 82nd Street	Main entrance (W) Northwest lot
6 Bloomington Lutheran Church 9350 Portland Avenue South	Main entrance North lot
7 Indian Mounds Elementary School 9801 - 11th Avenue South	Main entrance (N) Northwest lot
8 Riverside Reformed Church 10201 Nicollet Avenue South	North entrance East lot
9 Nativity of Mary School 9901 East Bloomington Freeway	NE school entrance Northeast lot
10 St. Luke’s Lutheran Church 1701 West Old Shakopee Road	Northeast entrance North lot
11 Bloomington Nat’l. Guard Armory 3300 West 98th Street	Main entrance (W) West lot
12 Crosspoint Church 9801 France Avenue South	Main entrance (E) East lot
13 Hubert Olson Elementary School 4501 West 102nd Street	Main entr. (NW) West lot – disabled use front drive
14 Mount Hope Lutheran Church 3601 West Old Shakopee Road	Main entrance (S) South lot
15 Westwood Elementary School 3701 West 108th Street	Main entrance (N) West lot
16 Normandale Hylands United Methodist Church 9920 Normandale Boulevard South	Northeast entrance (Left doors) North lot
17 Peace Lutheran Church 8600 East Bush Lake Road	Main entrance North lot
18 The Church of St. Edward’s 9401 Nesbitt Avenue South	SW entrance Upper level, SW lot
19 St. Stephen Lutheran Church 8400 France Avenue South	Main entrance (W) West lot
20 Washburn Elementary School 8401 Xerxes Avenue South	Main entrance Northeast lot

PRECINCTS 1 AND 5
POLLING LOCATION CHANGES

VOTERS IN PRECINCTS 1 AND 5 will be voting at different locations in 2009. Precinct 1 voters will vote at Evergreen Community Church, 2300 East 88th Street. Precinct 5 voters will return to their usual location at Southtown Baptist Church, 2600 West 82nd Street.

VERIFY THE LOCATION OF YOUR PRECINCT POLLING PLACE PRIOR TO ELECTION DAY BY USING THE ABOVE MAP OR BY VISITING [WWW.CI.BLOOMINGTON.MN.US](http://www.ci.bloomington.mn.us), KEYWORDS: POLLING PLACE.

Precinct/Polling location	Entrance/Parking
21 Sunrise Park Shelter 9401 Bloomington Ferry Road	Only entrance (N) North lot
22 Normandale Hills Elem. School 9501 Toledo Avenue South	Main entrance West lot
23 Community of the Cross Lutheran Church 10701 Bloomington Ferry Road	Main entrance (N) North lot
24 Bloomington Lutheran School 10600 Bloomington Ferry Road	Main entrance (S) South lot – disabled use East side
25 Bethany Missionary Church 6900 Auto Club Road	West entrance West and North lots
26 Southwood Center 4901 West 112th Street	West entrance West lot
27 Bethany Missionary Gymnasium 6900 Auto Club Road	Main entrance South lot
28 Bloomington Fire Station #6 8601 Lakeview Road	Main entrance North lot and street
29 Christ the King Lutheran Church 8600 Fremont Avenue South	SW entrance Southwest lot
30 Oak Grove Presbyterian Church 2200 West Old Shakopee Road	Main entrance Northeast lot
31 St. Bonaventure Catholic Church 901 East 90th Street (Social Hall)	Main entrance East lot
32 Oxboro Evangelical Free Church 9431 Nicollet Avenue South	North entrance North lot